OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The tins are loaded into the drum and the flash plate pre-heated by burning upon it an oily rag or other readily combustible material.

When the plate is very hot and dry, and not before, a little oil is run down the pipe followed by a trace of water.

When flashing occurs, the flow of oil and water is increased until about $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ the quantity of water is being used.

Complete incineration should be affected in ten minutes. At the end of 25 minutes the drum should be sufficiently cool to permit final disposal of the contents.

SUMMARY

A simple improvised destructor is described which permits of the rapid incineration of empty food tins from a unit.

The destructor and heating can be easily constructed from salvaged material. Only simple tools are required and it is well within the capacity of a Regimental pioneer.

Correspondence

FUTURE MEDICAL OFFICERS FOR THE ARMY

Sir,

Having read the provoking series of articles by Colonel R. H. Robinson, T.D., on "Future Medical Officers for the Army," it seemed that it might be of interest to record the fate, over the past few years, of some of the recruiting inducements mentioned by him.

(a) Undergraduate Military Training.—One of the inducements to join the pre-war O.T.C. was that, in the event of a war, those who had obtained certificates “A” and “B” would obtain three and six months' antedate of commission respectively. Unfortunately this is not what happened, as on the outbreak of the 1939/45 war instead of T.A. commissions being granted as hitherto emergency commissions were given, with the result that all applications by holders of these certificates for antedate were automatically disallowed.

(b) Antedate for Commission for whole-time appointment in a recognized civil hospital.—A.C.I. 1814/43 reopened the granting of short-service Regular Army commissions to emergency commissioned officers, stated what the gratuities would be and that other conditions were as laid down in the Pay Warrant. To the surprise of those short-service officers who applied for and were granted post-war regular commissions, their claims for antedate were turned down on an amendment No. 164 (27/General/3230) to the Pay Warrant 1940, which was not published until July 1949 but which had retrospective
Correspondence

effect to 1939. Yet since January 1, 1951, this antedate, now up to a maximum of two years, has had to be reintroduced to stimulate the recruiting of short-service officers for the R.A.M.C.

(c) Civilian Specialist Overseas.—Last year formation headquarters were asked to circularize officially national service officers on the financial advantages of becoming a civilian specialist overseas. This made it difficult to recommend to national service officers the Army as a career at about half the pay and the inconveniences of Military Law and discipline.

(d) Interpreters.—A.C.I. 992/48 reopened the approval of monetary awards for qualification as interpreters in certain foreign languages to regular officers of all Arms and Services. Yet A.C.I. 190/51 has deleted regular officers of the R.A.M.C. and inserted in their place those of the W.R.A.C.

Perhaps the fear of a like fate to inducements now proffered for regular service may have engendered a state of mind in some national service officers such as held by many of the Ancients: "Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes."

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(sgd.) F. G. NEILD,
Major, R.A.M.C.

P.S.—Military Training (Dress and Morale). Although Service dress is no longer official except for full colonels and above and No. 1 dress is not yet compulsory to wear, in B.A.O.R. at any rate for official functions during the day Service dress is de rigueur as is No. 1 at night. It is therefore difficult for a national service officer attending either of these functions in battledress to feel at ease. Other Arms and Services manage to maintain their officers at a high standard of dress by such devices as keeping at the regimental depot a clothing store of S.D. and No. 1 dress purchased from demobilized officers. Why cannot this be done at the R.A.M.C. Depot and T.E. with its immensely higher turnover of officers?

A.M.D. NOTES

Dear Sir,
Reference "Notes from A.M.D." by your “Special Correspondent,” which appeared in August 1951 copy of the Corps Journal.
It is noted that I have not been mentioned in the "mental tour" of the U.K.
In all humility, I am reluctant to accept that I have been omitted for the same reason as our Director-General, and accordingly accept that I must be the "somebody" referred to in the terminal paragraph of the article.
May the attention of your “Special Correspondent” be directed to the current Army List page 71B—Western Command, Medical, where I am more fully identified.

B. BLEWITT,
Lt.-Col. R.A.M.C.

Due apologies and suitable amendment are given in our current Matters of Interest.—En.